

sérgio sister
**images of a pop youth:
political paintings and prison drawings**

opening august 10, 2019 | exhibition aug 12 – oct 5, 2019



Sérgio Sister. **Untitled**, 1967. Spray, colage, seam and acrylic ink on canvas . 89 x 116 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Galeria Nara Roesler

Galeria Nara Roesler | São Paulo presents Sérgio Sister: **Images of a Pop Youth – Political Paintings and Prison Drawings**, his fourth solo show at the gallery. With a presentation text by Camila Bechelany, the exhibition brings together for the first time a large number of works produced between 1966 and 1971, mostly unknown to the public, including drawings made during the 19 months the artist spent incarcerated at Tiradentes Prison in São Paulo, during the Brazilian military regime (1964–1985).

The exhibition features 35 drawings, most of them using watercolor, pastel and pen on paper in varying dimensions and formats. Highly colorful, with caricature-like and psychedelic gestures, the drawings are a sort of documentation of the artist's day-to-day life in prison. According to Sister, 'they were a kind of chronicle recording what was going on amongst us. I wanted to use graphic symbols and colors to comment on the electric shocks, chains, beatings [...]'. Today, the artist understands that the production of these works was a way of recovering his own identity and finding a spiritual place to help him through such a dark period.

With no expectation of release and having been forcibly displaced from his university studies in social science and his work as a journalist, the artist started to draw daily after his wife Bela, then girlfriend, brought him a drawing pad and a box of crayons. Gradually, Sister began to meet other artists and architects who were also in custody, such as Al ipio Freire, Carlos Takaoka, Jos e Wilson, S ergio Ferro, Rodrigo Lef evre, Julio Barone, Carlos Henrique Heck and S ergio Souza Lima. This group became a sort of studio collective, which served as a platform for a prolific exchange of ideas and materials. It was at this point that Sister came into contact with many theoretical concepts, introduced to him by his new colleagues, and started to use his drawings to establish a stronger link with the art world.

This exhibition presents a wide selection of these drawings, brought together for the first time. Some of them have featured in the shows *Pequenas insurrei es* [Small Insurrections] at Centro Cultural S o Paulo – CCSP (1985); *Caros amigos* [Dear Friends] at Memorial da Am rica Latina, S o Paulo (2008); and more recently *Al-5 50 ANOS – Ainda n o terminou de acabar* [Al5 50 Years – Still Hasn't Ended Yet], at Instituto Tomie Ohtake, also in S o Paulo (2018).

Fifteen paintings on canvas included in the exhibition, produced before Sister's time in prison (1966–1967), show the strong influence of pop art on his work. Yet, contrary to the American movement, whose departure point was the trivialization of images via the appropriation of everyday objects, the assimilation of the pop movement in Brazil reflected the tensions triggered by the imposition of its military regime. Like many other artists of his generation, Sister intuitively utilized pop art's irony and aggressiveness as an outlet for social and political issues.

To coincide with the exhibition, Galeria Nara Roesler is launching a *Viewing Room* on Artsy, an online exhibition space where visitors can view and collect artworks exclusively selected for the platform. For its launch, the gallery has chosen 15 recent small-scale works by Sister that will be available for purchase online.

opening

august 10, 2019 | saturday, 11h

exhibition

august 12 – october 5, 2019

monday to friday, from 10am to 7pm

saturday, from 11am to 3pm

galeria nara roesler | s o paulo

avenida europa 655 jardim europa

s o paulo brazil

t 55 (11) 2039 5454

s ergio sister

S ergio Sister was born in 1948 in S o Paulo, Brazil, where he currently lives and works. In the 1960's he attended painting courses at Funda  o Armando  lvares Penteado (FAAP) in S o Paulo, and in 1974 he graduated with a degree in social science from the University of S o Paulo, where he began his Master's research in the Department of Social Sciences. As a member of Generation 80, his creative process encompasses many distinct techniques of layering and varying tonal and chromatic intensity. As developments from his painting, Sister also creates three-dimensional works, such as his series *Caixas* [Boxes], which began in 1996, as well as *Pontalletes* [Props], ongoing since 2006 and *Ripas* [Slats], 2009.

Sister has participated in the 9th and 25th editions of the S o Paulo Biennial (1967 and 2002). Recent group exhibitions include: *A linha como dire  o* [The Line as Direction], Pina Estac  o, S o Paulo (2019); *The Pencil is a Key: Art by Incarcerated Artists*, The Drawing Center, New York (2019); *G eom etrias Am ricaines, du Mexique   la Terre de Feu*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (2018); *Al-5 50 anos – Ainda n o terminou de acabar* [Al5 50 Years – Still Hasn't Ended Yet], Instituto Tomie Ohtake, S o Paulo (2018); *MAC USP no s eculo XXI – A Era dos Artistas* [MAC USP in the 21st Century – The Era of Artists], Museu de Arte Contempor nea da Universidade de S o Paulo (MAC USP) (2017); and *Sala de encontro – Dentro* [Room of Encounters – Inside], Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2017).

Solo exhibitions include: *S ergio Sister*, Kupfer Gallery, London (2017); *Pintura com ar, sombra e espa o* [Painting with Air, Shade and Space], Galeria Nara Roesler, Rio de Janeiro (2017); *Sergio Sister: Malen Mit Raum, Schatten und Luft*, Galerie Lange + Pult, Zurich, Switzerland (2016); *Expanded Fields*, Nymphe Projekte, Berlin (2016); *Ordem Desunida* [Disunited Order], Galeria Nara Roesler, S o Paulo (2015); *S ergio Sister*, Pinacoteca do Estado, S o Paulo (2013); and *Sergio Sister*, Galerie Emmanuel Herv , Paris (2013).

His works feature in several collections, such as Museu de Arte Moderna de S o Paulo; Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro; Pinacoteca do Estado de S o Paulo; Centro Cultural S o Paulo; and Instituto Figueiredo Ferraz.

galeria nara roesler

Galeria Nara Roesler is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, which represents established and prominent emerging Brazilian and international artists, with headquarters in S o Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and New York. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery has fomented the development and the diffusion of its artists' work through a consistent exhibition program, solid institutional partnerships and constant dialogue with leading curators in the contemporary art scene. Since 2002, the gallery fosters the Roesler Hotel program, which is aimed at promoting dialogues between national and international art communities, inviting artists and curators to develop artistic experiments at the gallery space.

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press

galeria nara roesler

comunica o

t +55 (11) 2039 5465

paula plee

paula.plee@nararoesler.art

MktMix Assessoria de Comunica o

t ania otranto / balia lebeis / roberto ethel

t +55 (11) 3060-3640

martina carli - martina@mktmix.com.br - ramal 3623

lu s dolci - luisdolci@mktmix.com.br - ramal 3630